REMARKS

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the Examiner's allowance of Claims 1-15 and 24-38 in the outstanding Official Action. In addition, Claims 16-23 and 39-46 have received a notice of Final Rejection in view of a combination of the cited references as set forth in the Office Action.

In response to the notice of Final Rejection, Applicant respectfully requests that the present Amendment after Final Rejection be entered for the specific purpose of amending finally rejected Claims 16 and 39 to incorporate the allowable subject matter of allowable independent Claims 1 and 38, respectfully. Because the proposed amendment of Claims 16 and 39 raises no new prosecution issues, entry of the proposed Amendment after Final Rejection is believed to be proper and will advance the prosecution of the application.

Serial No. 10/748,915

CONCLUSION

As set forth in the Remarks, it is respectfully requested that independent Claims 16 and 39 be amended to depend from allowable Claims 1 and 24, respectively. This should render all of the remaining Claims 17-23 and 40-46 allowable over the cited patents.

In view of the above remarks, Applicant believes that all pending claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

The Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's Representative at 321-867-7214 if there are any questions regarding the instant Response or if prosecution of this application may be assisted thereby. No new matter has been entered and no additional fee is required by this amendment.

Please deem this a petition for extension of time if necessary to maintain pendency of this patent application. Please charge any additional fees necessary to maintain pendency of this patent application or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 14-0116.

Respectfully submitted,

D . . .

Randall M. Heald

Reg. No.: 28,561

NASA John F. Kennedy Space Center

Mail Code CC-A

Kennedy Space Center, FL 32899

Tel. No.: 321-867-7214 Fax No.: 321-867-1817 Customer No.: 25190